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RF 391 (R)

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S/S # 8120962

Date August 17, 1981

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

'81 AUG 17 P7:55

FOR: Mr. Richard V. Allen
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: The President FROM: David M. Stowe

DATE: June 12, 1981 SUBJECT: Opposed the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear facility

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: July 7, 1981 NSC # 028832 (if any)

____ THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

____ A draft reply is attached.

____ A draft reply will be forwarded.

____ A translation is attached.

xx An information copy of a direct reply is attached.

____ We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.

____ Other.

REMARKS:

EC

Drafted:NEA/IAI:ECubbison:mgk
8/13/81 x23672 8120962

Cleared:NEA/IAI:MKirby MK

Nancy M. DeGuenther for.
L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY MP DATE 1-11-84

RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON D.C. 20520

August 17, 1981

Dear Mr. Stowe:

The White House has asked that I reply to your inquiry of June 12, addressed to the President, regarding the U.S. relationship with Israel.

The United States has had a close relationship with Israel since its independence in 1948. This relationship is based on the common values shared by the U.S. and Israel: a devotion to democracy and the rule of law, respect for the rights of the individual, a commitment to social welfare and a strong desire for peace. Support for Israel's security and well-being has long been an important part of our foreign policy in the Middle East.

The U.S. also has valuable and long-standing relationships with many Arab countries in the Middle East, with which we share important economic and security interests. Our national interests in the region require that we maintain and strengthen our relationships with Israel and with our Arab friends, that we work closely with them to improve the security of the region against Soviet interventionism, and that we persevere in our efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We have not hesitated to make our views known on recent events in the Middle East, both in our communications with the Government of Israel and other area governments and in our public statements and votes on United Nations resolutions. We condemned Israel's attack on Iraq's nuclear facility and voted in favor of the U.N. Resolution that condemned that attack. The President suspended the scheduled delivery of four F-16 aircraft pending a review of the issue of Israeli use of U.S. equipment in that attack. We have deplored the recent escalation of the cycle of violence in Lebanon, and we voted in favor of U.N. Resolution 490, calling for an immediate cessation of all armed attacks. Because of the climate of tension and violence in Lebanon, the President continued the suspension of the delivery of the F-16's and also suspended delivery of additional aircraft pending completion of a careful examination of the causes and consequences of the recent military actions in the region.

Mr. David M. Stowe,
Executive Vice President,
United Church Board for World Ministries,
475 Riverside Drive,
New York, New York.

We have long worked to advance the peace process in the Middle East in order to reach a resolution of the conflict that will satisfy the needs of all concerned and that will provide for Israel's security. Our efforts have been based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israeli withdrawal from territory occupied during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War and for recognition of the right of all states of the region to live in peace within secure and recognized borders.

Equally important as a framework for the peace process are the Camp David Accords of 1978. The Accords call for negotiations to determine the future status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and for a resolution of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. A major objective of the Camp David Accords was attained in March 1979 with the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt that established normal relations between these countries for the first time.

Our continued support of Israel has helped to make such important achievements possible by giving Israel the confidence in its security that it needs in order to make the difficult compromises and decisions required for peace. The United States continues to work with all its friends in the Middle East to strengthen and advance the peace process, and to improve the stability and security of the region as a whole.

I hope this information is useful to you.

Sincerely,

William A. Kirby
Acting Director
Office of Israel
and Arab-Israeli Affairs

Drafted:NEA/IAI:ECubbison:mgk
8/13/81 x23672 #8120962
Cleared:NEA/IAI:WKirby

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

JULY 7, 1981 8120862

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 020832

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JUNE 12, 1981

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. DAVID M. STOWE
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
UNITED CHURCH BOARD FOR WORLD
MINISTRIES
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK NY 10027

SUBJECT: OPPOSES THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE IRAQI
NUCLEAR FACILITY IN BAGDAD; SUPPORTS DECISION
IN STOPPING SHIPMENT OF THE FOUR JETS TO
ISRAEL

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
LESLIE SORG
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

UNITED CHURCH BOARD FOR WORLD MINISTRIES

NEW YORK
BOSTON
ST. LOUIS Milton Blackwell

Incorporated 1812 in Massachusetts

NEW YORK
475 Riverside Drive
New York, N.Y. 10027
Cable: Fernstalk New York

EMMETT O. FLOYD
President

DAVID M. STOWE
Executive Vice President

MYLES H. WALBURN
Treasurer

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
212-870-2815

8120962

June 12, 1981

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

028832

Dear Mr. President:

I was deeply distressed, as you were, by the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear facility in Baghdad. Such incidents, as you well recognize, increase the threat of military conflict in that very volatile part of the world.

I think that you have made the correct decision in stopping shipment of the four jets to Israel. I would like to make a suggestion for further action: I would suggest that this incident, as dangerous and frightening as it was to the whole world, may have served as a sobering reminder of the potentially cataclysmic consequences of the arms race in the Middle East. I would urge that you seize this moment to announce a moratorium on all arms shipments to the Middle East, and encourage the Soviet Union to reciprocate. Such a policy would pose a minimal threat to Israel in the immediate future since Israel enjoys a clear military superiority over its neighbors. It would also provide the Soviet Union with the opportunity to play a constructive role in the region.

You can be assured of our prayers as you make the momentous decisions required by these perilous times.

Very sincerely yours,

David M. Stowe

David M. Stowe
Executive Vice President

DMS:ero